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BUZZ ABOUT TOWN

A Philly resident has contracted the state's first human case of West Nile virus in 2019. 4

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8 THINGS TO KNOW

GETTY IMAGES

1

US journalist Cokie Roberts, a 'founding mother' of NPR, dead at 75

"Trusted voice" Roberts rose to prominence in a field dominated by men.

"I don't just see this role of women as caretakers in the world that I cover, I see it in the world I live in."

Cokie Roberts, Wellesely College commencement speech (1994)

American journalist Cokie Roberts, regarded by National Public Radio as one of its "founding mothers" and a prominent political commentator on ABC News, died on Tuesday at 75 at her Washington home from complications of breast cancer, her family said in a statement.

Roberts worked in radio as a foreign correspondent for CBS and a congressional correspondent for NPR in the 1970s. She went on to become a prominent political commentator on ABC News, serving as the network's chief congressional analyst.

NPR President Jarl Mohn called the Emmy Award winner one of NPR's "founding mothers" in a statement, describing her as "the trusted voice that Americans count on when political news breaks."

She was born Mary Martha Corinne Morrison Claiborne Boggs on December 27, 1943, to a prominent political family in Louisiana. She got her nickname Cokie from her brother, who struggled to pronounce "Corinne" when they were children.

Her father, Thomas Hale Boggs, was a major force in New Orleans Democratic politics who served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 25 years and became majority leader in the early 1970s when his party ran the chamber. After his plane disappeared over Alaska in October 1972, her mother, Lindy Boggs, was elected to his seat and served through the end of 1990.

Roberts rose to prominence at a time when broadcast news and political analysis was mostly presented by men.

Two of Roberts' journalistic subjects, former U.S. President George W. Bush and his wife, Laura Bush, noted her drive and humor in a joint statement.

"She covered us for decades as a talented, tough, and fair reporter," their statement said. "She became a friend."

Roberts won numerous awards for her work, including three Emmys. In 2008, the Library of Congress recognized her as a "Living Legend."

Roberts wrote several books about overlooked women in American political history, including "Founding Mothers," about the wives and other female relatives of the men who helped create the American republic. Her last book, published in 2015, was "Capital Dames: the Civil War and the Women of Washington, 1848-1868."

She often spoke of women as playing a civilizing role in society.

"I don't just see this role of women as caretakers in the world that I cover, I see it in the world I live in," she said in her commencement speech at Wellesely College, her alma mater, in 1994. "Slowly, slowly, slowly but definitely, the workplace is becoming a more humane place because of the presence of women."

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Steven Roberts, two children and six grandchildren, her family said in a statement. REUTERS

NBCU's streaming service 'Peacock' to launch in 2020

2 Comcast Corp.'s NBCUniversal will name its upcoming streaming service "Peacock," offering a broad slate of original content, including "Dr Death" starring Emmy and Golden Globe winner Alec Baldwin, the company said on Tuesday. Peacock, which will also offer classic sitcoms like "The Office" and "Parks and Recreation," is scheduled to launch in 2020, NBCUniversal said. The company owns traditional television network NBC, whose logo features a peacock. The service will compete with streaming giant Netflix Inc. and Walt Disney Co.'s upcoming Disney+ streaming service as well as other digital subscription options, as traditional media companies seek to attract online viewers. Details on pricing and distribution will be announced closer to launch, the media company said. REUTERS

Virginia gov puts state on path to carbon-free 2050

3 Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam signed an executive order on Tuesday with a goal of producing all of the state's electricity from carbon-free sources by 2050 in an effort to reduce the commonwealth's impact on climate change. The order has an interim target of producing 30 percent of the state's electricity from renewable sources by 2030. With the order, Virginia joins several other states that have already set 100 percent clean energy goals, including Hawaii, California, New Mexico, Maine, New York and Washington, according to Environment America. In 2017, natural gas fueled 50 percent of Virginia's net electricity generation, nuclear power provided 33 percent, coal fueled almost 12 percent and renewable resources, including hydropower, supplied more than 6 percent, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. REUTERS

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GETTY IMAGES

PA reports first human case of West Nile virus in 2019

A Philly resident has contracted the state's first case this year.

BECCA GLASSER-BAKER
Rebecca.Glasser@metro.us

Health officials on Tuesday reported Pennsylvania's first human case of the West Nile virus in 2019.

Samples from the infected person are being sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to confirm the illness.

Residents are encouraged to minimize exposure to mosquitoes. State Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine said in a statement, "While we encourage Pennsylvanians to enjoy the outdoors, we also want them to take proper precautions from mosquitoes while outside."

Levine added, "With the first human case of West Nile virus detected, we want people to protect themselves. Several simple steps can help protect yourself and loved ones from mosquito-related diseases."

> **"With the first human case of West Nile virus detected, we want people to protect themselves."**
> PA Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine

West Nile virus (WNV) is continuously being monitored by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and so far, they have detected West Nile virus-infected mosquitoes in 32 counties.

DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell said in a statement, "Today's announcement should be a reminder to all Pennsylvanians to use a personal insect repellent or stay indoors during dawn and dusk will help prevent exposure to the mosquitoes that can carry West Nile virus."

To protect yourself and others from WNV-infected bugs, Pennsylvanians should be using a DEET-containing insect repellent and covering exposed skin with lightweight clothing. To protect your home, make sure that windows and screens are not damaged.

WNV-infected mosquitoes and non-infected ones alike thrive in stagnant water, so another important precaution is to make sure you eliminate standing water.

The state has listed a few ways to get rid of standing water:

- Remove tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots, discarded tires, or any object that could collect standing water. Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers left outdoors.
- Have roof gutters cleaned every year, particularly if the leaves from nearby trees have a tendency to clog the drains.
- Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use.
- Do not let water stagnate in birdbaths.
- Aerate ornamental pools, or stock them with fish.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools and remove standing water from pool covers.
- Use landscaping to eliminate standing water that collects on your property.
- Treat standing water that cannot be eliminated with Bti products which are sold at outdoor supply, home improvement, and other stores. Bti is a natural product that kills mosquito larvae but is safe for people, pets, aquatic life, and plants.

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Spotted lanternfly. GETTY IMAGES

Philadelphia's spotted lanternfly invasion inspires memes and more

Philadelphians are making light of the invasive species' rampant growth.

BECCA GLASSER-BAKER
Rebecca.Glasser@metro.us

The spotted lanternfly has taken over Pennsylvania, including Philly, and people are taking a few cracks at the insect invasion.

The invasive species was first discovered in Berks County in 2014. Since then, the invasion has continued to grow, with the pests spreading to 14 counties in Pennsylvania, eight in New Jersey, and some making their way to the Big Apple.

Even though the spotted lanternfly invasion is wreaking havoc on the state, Philadelphians have found some creative inspiration as a result.

The internet is feeling more inspired than ever by the infestation, with some planning a Halloween costume of "sexy lanternfly," creating horror-movie trailers and a song about the pests, and Twitter users have even started sharing how many bugs they've killed.

"Before today, I had squashed only 1 #SpottedLanternfly (on 9/7 at Penn's Landing). Today I squashed ELEVEN just on my lunch break in Penn Center area. #SLFbodycount: 12#keepsquashin..." said Twitter user Kathryn Christopher.

"Dibs on being a slutty spotted lanternfly for Halloween," tweeted Meghan A Kelly.

Even though the internet is having a blast at the expense of the invasive species, the spotted lanternfly can be extremely detrimental to the state and its agriculture.

According to the PA Department of Agriculture, "the spotted lanternfly is known to utilize more than 70 species, 25 of which also occur in Pennsylvania, including cultivated grapes, fruit trees, and hardwood species. In the U.S., the spotted lanternfly has the potential to greatly impact the viticulture (grape), tree fruit, plant nursery and timber industries."

Additionally, the PA Department of Agriculture said: "This pest poses a significant threat to the state's more than $28 million grape, $87 million apple, and more than $19 million peach industries, as well as the hardwood industry in Pennsylvania which accounts for nearly $17 billion in sales."

> **"Dibs on being a 'slutty spotted lanternfly' for Halloween."**
> Twitter user Meghan A. Kelly

If you or someone you're with spots one of the pest, the PA Department of Agriculture urges you to report it to 888-4BADFLY or fill out this form.

After you see one, the PA Department of Agriculture also wants you to, "Kill it! Squash it, smash it...just get rid of it. In the fall, these bugs will lay egg masses with 30-50 eggs each. These are called bad bugs for a reason. Don't let them take over your county next."

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Gold Medal flour recalled for E. coli risk

General Mills announced a recall on their 5-pound bags of Gold Medal Unbleached All-Purpose Flour with a "used by" date of Sept. 6, 2020.

The flour is being voluntarily recalled for potential E. coli. The company discovered during testing that there was a potential presence of E. coli. E. coli, a.k.a. Escherichia coli, is usually a harmless bacteria that lives in the intestines of people and animals. Although E. coli is harmless, some can be "pathogenic," which means they can cause illness.

This recall is specific to this product; no other types of Gold Medal flour are affected by the recall.

It should also be noted that in the announcement, both the Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) warn consumers that they should refrain from consuming raw products with flours.

General Mills also noted on their website, "Do not eat uncooked dough or batter made with raw flour. Flour is made from wheat that is grown outdoors where bacteria are often present. Flour is typically not treated to kill bacteria during the normal milling process."

It is also important to note that General Mills says: "E. coli O26 is killed by heat through baking, frying, sautéing or boiling products made with flour. All surfaces, hands and utensils should be properly cleaned after contact with flour or dough."

Although there have been no confirmed reports of illness from the flour, the company is doing this out of precaution.

101°F

Some people may have a fever, which usually is not very high (less than 101°F/38.5°C).

According to the CDC, some symptoms of E. coli include: "severe stomach cramps, diarrhea (often bloody), and vomiting. Some people may have a fever, which usually is not very high (less than 101°F/38.5°C). Most people get better within five to seven days."

Some infections can be life-threatening, and others can be mild. If you or someone you know is suffering from these symptoms, contact your doctor right away.

The very young, the elderly and those with compromised immune systems are those most susceptible to foodborne illnesses.

The information on the recalled bags are as follows:

Package UPC 000-16000-19610-0

Better if Used by Date 06SEP2020KC

If you have this item in your pantry General Mills wants you to toss it out and call General Mills Consumer Relations at 1-800-230-8103 or fill out this form.

BECCA GLASSER-BAKER

"Do not eat uncooked dough or batter made with raw flour. Flour is made from wheat that is grown outdoors where bacteria are often present. Flour is typically not treated to kill bacteria during the normal milling process."
General Mills statement

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Research Coordinator, University of Pennsylvania Dermatology
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A new non-lethal weapon, called BolaWrap, discharges an 8-foot Kevlar tether at 640 feet per second. REUTERS

Police test 'Spider-Man' device as alternative to Taser

Bolawrap fires 8-foot tether that ensnares suspects.

"This tool fits perfectly into that gap, giving officers another option before having to use that high level of force."
Tom Smith, president of Wrap Industries

With 49 people killed last year after being shocked by Tasers, police departments across the United States are trying out a "Spider-Man"-like device that fires a tether that entangles and restrains the suspect.

Called Bolawrap, the device fires an eight-foot (2.4 meters) bola-style tether at a suspect to entangle his legs and prevent him from getting away. It works at a range of 10-25 ft (3-7.6 meters).

"Whether it is a Taser, pepper spray, baton ... there's been this gap created by the courts requiring that a higher level of force be used at the appropriate time," said Tom Smith, president of Wrap Industries, which manufactures the Bolawrap device.

"This tool fits perfectly into that gap giving the officers another option to use before having to use that high level of force to end that conversation very early, very safely," he said.

Smith, who founded TASER International, now Axon Enterprises, made the Taser with his brother before leaving to join Wrap Technologies. He said he saw the success of the Taser as proof there was an appetite for more non-lethal tools in policing.

The Bolawrap is a little bit larger than a cell phone and designed to fit easily onto a police belt. The synthetic fiber tether exits the device at about 640 feet (about 200 meters) per second "And that is... you won't see it," Smith said.

He said he has demonstrated the device to dozens of police departments in the United States, as well as in Australia and New Zealand.

Reuters has documented a total of at least 1,081 U.S. deaths following use of police Tasers, almost all since the weapons entered widespread use in the early 2000s, including 49 in 2018. In many of those cases, the Taser was combined with other force, such as hand strikes, pepper spray or restraint holds.

In the city of Bell, Calif., southeast of Los Angeles, Police Chief Carlos Islas said he tried out the device on himself.

"I personally went ahead and took the opportunity to get wrapped myself and the reason I did that - it is important for me to understand what an individual who is going to get wrapped is going to feel, and to me it's very negligible.

"I mean there was no pain," he said. REUTERS

US wants to seize all money Edward Snowden makes from new book

DOJ sued Tuesday, citing breach of nondisclosure agreements.

Edward Snowden speaks via video link as he takes part in a discussion about his book "Permanent Record" in Berlin, Germany, Sept. 17, 2019. REUTERS

The United States filed a lawsuit on Tuesday against Edward Snowden, the former National Security Agency contractor who leaked secret documents about U.S. telephone and internet surveillance in 2013, saying his new book violates nondisclosure agreements.

The Justice Department said Snowden published his memoir, "Permanent Record," without submitting it to intelligence agencies for review, adding that speeches given by Snowden also violated nondisclosure agreements. In 2013, Snowden wrote "Everything You Know about the Constitution Is Wrong."

The United States is seeking all proceeds earned by Snowden for the book, the Justice Department said. The lawsuit also names the "corporate entities" behind the book's publication as nominal defendants.

Ben Wizner, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union who represents Snowden, said the lawsuit was without merit.

"This book contains no government secrets that have not been previously published by respected news organizations," he said in a statement, adding that Snowden would have submitted it for review if he thought the government would review it in good faith.

Representatives for the book's publisher, Macmillan Publishers, and its unit Henry Holt & Co., did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Snowden has lived in Russia since he revealed details of U.S. intelligence agencies' secret surveillance programs.

Though he is viewed by some as a hero, U.S. authorities want him to stand in a criminal trial over his disclosures of classified information.

Speaking by video link at an event in Berlin to promote the book, Snowden said that while he had signed a nondisclosure agreement to maintain secrecy, he had also sworn an oath to uphold the U.S. Constitution.

"You've told the government you're not going to talk to journalists. You've told them you're not going to write a book," Snowden said. "At the same time you have an oath to defend the Constitution. And the secret that you are asked to protect is that the government is violating that Constitution and the rights of people around the world."
REUTERS

BRIEF

Israeli election too close to call: Exit polls

REUTERS

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's battle for political survival looked set to continue for days or weeks after Israeli exit polls at the end of Tuesday's election showed the race too close to call.

The surveys by Israeli television stations showed Netanyahu's right-wing Likud with 31-33 of parliament's 120 seats compared with 32-34 for the centrist Blue and White led by former general Benny Gantz.

The exit polls indicated that Netanyahu's ally-turned-rival, ex-defense minister Avigdor Lieberman, could be the kingmaker, with the backing of his far-right Yisrael Beitenu party critical to the formation of any ruling coalition.

The ballot followed an inconclusive election in April in which Netanyahu showed rare political weakness and failed to put together a government. Netanyahu, at 69 Israel's longest-serving prime minister, seeks a fifth term after a decade in power.

Likud and Blue and White were tied at 35 seats in April's election, and would need to enlist support from smaller parties with a wide range of agendas for a coalition government.

As in the election five months ago, his opponents, including Gantz focused on corruption allegations against Netanyahu, who denies any wrongdoing.
REUTERS

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READER WRITE-INS:

NO CHILD PROTECTION TO MICROSOFT "FILTERS"

My grumble is to Microsoft. We just purchased an $800 Windows 10 Dell Laptop. I try to be a responsible parent by setting up a "Family" group on my son's new computer. Come to find out that NONE of the filters on Microsoft 10 work. I set all filters correctly for a 13 year old, set blocks for adult sites and none of them work. I even tried blocking specific porn sites and they pop right open! My fear is that millions of parents are putting their trust in these "user friendly" parental controls on Microsoft without actually testing them. They block NOTHING. I was on "chat" for 1.5 hours with Microsoft Tech last night only to be told to BUY more security or they tried to walk me through a complicated Network Settings feature that no layman would ever figure out. Parents, TEST your child's web browsers for adult sites if you are only putting your faith in Microsoft. You'll see that your kids have access to everything despite the security settings you put on Windows 10. I just spent $800 on a laptop that doesn't provide basic web security for my child.

Anonymous, *Metro US reader*

ISTOCK

metro & evvnt
INVITE THE WORLD TO YOUR EVENTS
List your event on metro.us/events

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries You'll appear to be more transparent if you remove yourself from a situation before making a decision. Time spent with a loved one will give you a different perspective.

Taurus Get moving. Your actions will affect how your day unfolds. An aggressive attitude will help you reach your objective and encourage positive change.

Gemini Spend more time nurturing a relationship with a loved one. Whether it's a youngster, friend or romantic interest, what you share will bring you closer together.

Cancer If you don't do the work, you can't expect to be rewarded. If you set your priorities and a budget, you'll live up to your expectations. It's OK to be different.

Leo Be open to suggestions, but when it comes down to making a decision, do what feels right. If you act prematurely, it will end up costing you emotionally or financially.

Virgo Make changes based on experience. Look for something new and exciting to incorporate into your everyday routine. A close friend or relative will offer valuable information.

Libra Refuse to fit into a slot that doesn't suit you. Make your voice heard and your priorities clear. If you don't speak up, others will make decisions for you.

Scorpio If something excites you, take a chance on it. Your enthusiasm will help you coax a loved one or co-worker into joining your pursuit.

Sagittarius Look at every angle before you get involved in something that has been hyped by someone who is a good talker. Protect yourself against those trying to take advantage of you.

Capricorn Take an interest in your home, possessions and plans to make your life better. Projects that will add to your assets and ease your stress are favored.

Aquarius Don't let anyone limit what you can do. Take care of details personally and avoid setbacks. If you abide by the rules, you'll reach your goal. A commitment can be made.

Pisces A change may tempt you, but you should take a test drive before making a move. The grass may look greener on the other side of the fence, but don't be fooled by appearances. EUGENIA LAST

LIFESTYLE

Meet a man, who created an incredible Iron Man statue

| CONTRIBUTED

A sculpture in honor of Tony Stark's sacrifice has recently appeared in Italy.

DANIEL CASILLAS
MWN
letters@metro.us

The end of the Avengers saga has caused a worldwide furor. And the death of Iron Man in 'Endgame' made many fans of Marvel's story sad. However, it inspired the creation of a statue in honor of the superhero's final sacrifice which saved the world. The sculpture by the Italian artist Daniele Basso now stands on Via Carducci in Forte dei Marmi and faces the Ligurian Sea in the Tuscany region. Basso chatted with Metro about his work that has become viral on social networks.

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'I think if there was ever a time that it would be the most relevant, it would be now'

Arden Theatre Company's production of "Ragtime" gives the classic show a new unique view.

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

"Ragtime" hits the stage this week. WIDE EYED STUDIOS

At first glance, "Ragtime" sounds and seems like a light-hearted, happy-go-lucky spectacle with incredible music, amusing dance bits and a colorful look into our country back at the turn of the century. But what this Tony-award winning show actually highlights is much deeper than that. "Ragtime" takes place in 1902, back when this country was going through major changes socially, and with change always comes resistance and a bit of controversy—ironically with many issues that still ring true in today's society. The Arden Theatre's take on the popular production holds on to the innate themes and polarizing message, while still showcasing incredible musicality and clarity with stripped down and straightforward showmanship. Jim Hogan, who plays Father in the show sat down with Metro to give the scoop on the Arden's unique view of the show, dive into what to expect from the incredible score and also chat about why in today's world "Ragtime" is more relevant than ever.

How did you first get on board with "Ragtime"?

I've been doing musical theater for almost ten years professionally and I grew up in Suburban Philadelphia in Montgomery County, so I've been familiar with this theater world in Philly for a while. I actually made my Actor's Equity debut—which is the union for actors—at the Arden back in 2013 and they asked me to come and audition for "Ragtime" back in April or so, and it just seemed like a good fit—I'm really lucky to be a part of it.

Can you tell me a little bit more about your role as Father in the show and also how you're preparing?

Father is a really interesting guy—he's got a lot of layers to him. He's a family man with a very successful business at the turn of the century. Our play takes place in 1902, so we're discovering a lot of change in the United States, and Father is the character who I would say is struggling to adapt to these changes the most. Father also loves to explore, he does it sort of as a hobby. He takes a trip at the beginning of the show and we see him leave and he comes back many months later to find that his family has changed quite a bit from the way that they were since he left. We see this struggle of him adapting to change from start to finish and how he tries to adapt to what he would say are radical changes with not only his family or town, but also with the country as a whole. So it's been interesting to kind of dive into who he is when I myself am such a liberal and a person who seeks change and is eager for the next big thing. But you know, what is most

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important to me about Father is that he is not portrayed as a villain, he just doesn't understand. He feels like he's a person who always has to be on top of certain things, so I'm trying to discover what I can bring to the table with Father just outside of the stereotypical villain view and try to make him as real of a person as I possibly can.

What do you think makes this show relevant still in today's climate?
I think if there was ever a time that it would be the most relevant, it would be now. We are in such an interesting political climate, and a lot of the themes that we are dealing with in this musical are exactly some of the themes we are seeing in current events. The show has such a central theme of prejudice and racism and anti-Semitism— all of these really dark scenes accompanied by probably my favorite score ever written for a Broadway stage. It's very, very powerful stuff. We have violence, prejudice against races, vandalism and all of these things

Jim Hogan PROVIDED

that we have seen recently. There are so many things in this show that go hand and hand with what is going on with our country right now.

Just switching gears now, you mentioned the incredible score—can you tell me a little more about the music in the show?
What's interesting about "Ragtime" is that this show feels to me as one of the last spectacle musicals in the repertoire of American musical theater, when you have things like "Les Miserables," "Phantom of the Opera" or "Miss Saigon"— the score for "Ragtime" is very similar though. It's very large and sweeping and symphonic in nature. We also have a very unique concept and view with this show, we are taking these large themes and making them more apparent [than ever] to the viewers. So we have less actors, less musicians and we are really taking a magnifying glass up to what "Ragtime" has been in the past and how we can make it more clear. For example, I do play Father, but you'll also see me play the piano up on stage accompanying various actors for their songs. In our cast of about 18, I would say that at least 9 or 10 actors play their own instruments at various points during the show in an effort to help tell the story for other actors who are taking the spotlight at that time. So it's definitely a different take on what the show has been originally— it's been a lot of fun, and I'm excited about it.

Is there a particular scene or song that stands out to you the most?
For me at this moment, it's a song in Act I called 'New Music.' It kind of takes almost everyone who is a major character in the show and puts them together in one space for the first time. We see all of these characters' story lines converge— and in addition to that, the song is just so incredibly powerful. It's a very large turning point in our show and also just a beautiful moment musically. It's definitely something to look forward too.

Overall what do you hope audiences take away from the show?
Honestly, I hope that they will take a look at themselves. I hope that everyone will see what we've given and kind of look into a mirror and see what kind of person they are or have been, or what they want to be in the future because I think there is a lot of great stuff to be learned from this story. So I hope people will walk away having had a great night of entertainment and also with some reflection because I think that's what this time is all about.

Catch "Ragtime" onstage at the Arden Theatre Company (40 N 2nd St.) from Sept. 19-Oct. 20. To learn more about the Arden or to purchase tickets, visit ardentheatre.org.

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Samuel Coleman 160, Mariah Brown 185, Mrs. Patricia A Holmes 220,
Deanna Y. Hightower 287, Derrick Jones II 347,
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'Audiences' relationship with Rambo is impressive' SYLVESTER STALLONE

Metro traveled to Los Angeles to talk with the famous actor.

MARÍA ESTÉVEZ
MWN
letters@metro.us

PROVIDED

Sylvester Stallone is a bulletproof actor who at 73 continues to shoot action movies. Willing to stretch Rambo's story until his retirement, Stallone premieres this week Last Blood, the fifth installment of the franchise that began in the 80s with First Blood. Stallone still has the biceps that made him famous and is still giving us tons of fights and violence.

1982's First Blood introduced John Rambo to the world, a former special forces soldier marked by his experiences in Vietnam, who ends up waging a one-man war against authorities in a small town in northern California. The film was a blockbuster, raising $125m and leading to a sequel in 1985, Rambo: First Blood Part II. Then Rambo III would arrive in 1988, Rambo in 2008 and now Last Blood with Sly's character facing the Mexican cartels after the kidnapping of his niece. In an exclusive interview in Los Angeles, Metro had the chance to chat with Stallone about his passion for acting and the reasons behind reliving the character

Rambo, in the beginning, told the story of many veteran soldiers from Vietnam who returned home with post traumatic syndrome. Since then, many soldiers from recent wars have had to face those same problems. Do you think Rambo represents all of them?
He obviously represents Vietnam veterans and, back then, his illness was not taken too seriously. Imagine how the soldiers from World War I returned. I think Rambo represents all young soldiers. It's something I've talked about intensely in the past and I think we should keep talking about in the present.

Rambo doesn't have a family of his own, but through his niece, we see him opening up about his feelings. How did you get that idea in the script?
The truth is that John doesn't have the capacity to take care of a pet. He cannot concentrate on anything but himself. That's why this story is so deep, it's the first time we see the character open up, worry about another person and show some love. I always thought that Rambo in his teens, and I would love someone to make a prequel, was the best person you could find; the captain of his team, the most popular guy in school, a super athlete, but the war changed him. We have seen it before, the perfect guy who, when he returns from war, cannot take care of himself, much less anyone else. That sucks.

Why did you decide to shoot another installment of Rambo?
I tried to incorporate what other people feel for the character. I don't know where it comes from, but the audience's relationship with Rambo is impressive. When there is nothing left and you have completely ripped out a man's heart, we face someone who is carried away by his primitive impulses and his anger. However, we understand that what he really wants is to be loved. I think there is a lot about a character that has been out of combat for decades and comes back arousing the audience's curiosity. It's something really amazing but that dynamic between primitive instincts and their desire to be loved captivates the audience.

The movie is very violent, what were the conversations you had with the director about what was appropriate to show and what was not?
When you face situations like this when shooting, many people can get injured, usually me. I think that one day I will have a personal ward at Cedars Sinai hospital because of the number of times I end up in the emergency room. I think they will call it the Rambo Wing. But let's talk about violence. There is Hollywood violence that is what appears in Budweisser ads and then there is real violence. If you study it, as I have, and you see what cops face every day risking their own lives in front of someone who wants to shoot them, you understand what I am talking about. It's terrible. What you see in this film is real, which means a shot with a 50-caliber weapon and how it leaves nothing. We wanted to show the aftermath of war and the reality of these soldiers who never overcome the trauma of having committed to war, because they live doomed by that promise. It's horrible, but I don't want to lie about this reality. If you're going to watch a Rambo movie, you should expect it to be uncomfortable when it comes to showing murders. It takes nine bullets to kill someone, it is not easy to kill someone who is fighting for his life. I tried to show war as it is.

You're incredibly fit, what is your physical preparation like?
There's tons of ice cream in my diet, even if you don't believe me. I try to eat the same thing every day, I call it the jockey mentality, because when they train, they look for speed and energy, not muscle.

How do you get the balance between fear and admiration that Rambo arouses?
He does not see himself as a hero, he is a guy who reacts to attacks. He is a reactionary, a killing machine that does not need anything and does not worry about his physical condition, all he does is not want to die and that makes him incredibly dangerous. But he does not generate the fight, he does not seek to fight, he prefers to stay in a secluded corner. I think that the character is still around because of his complexity, if he were just a tough guy, he would have bored the audience.

Going back to the first Rambo, in the 80s, did you ever think at the premiere that it was going to become an icon for decades?
No, not at all. I found that movie so bad when we shot it that I wanted to buy it. It's not a joke. No one believed in a character that attacked their own country. Once it was finished, we cut it from three hours to one hour and thirty-five minutes because I think Rambo movies should be short. What I did was edit 20 minutes and presented that to a room full of strangers in a final attempt to get a distributor to buy it. It was a leap of faith because I was a broke actor. Suddenly, with them, I discovered that the movie worked and that was the beginning of the story. A terrible start, but that is the story of my life, everything that starts well ends badly and what does not start well ends great.

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MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

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An Eagles – Cowboys Holy War in the NFC Championship Game this coming January cannot be ruled out, but before we get there we have the NFC East crown to get to. Here are the current odds to win the division at **MetroBet.us/Sugar:**

Cowboys -112
Eagles -112
Giants +2500
Redskins +3000

Betting division odds right now can offer great value. For instance, you can get the 2-0 49ers at +350 to win the NFC West right now at **MetroBet.us/Sugar**.

Playing the Eagles to win the division is not nearly as lucrative, but it is still worth throwing a few bucks on.

Everyone loves the Cowboys right now, but as we've pointed out multiple times over the past few weeks – NFL trends change in a hurry. Dallas is going to get even more national love this coming Sunday as they have the cupcake Dolphins at home. But after that, things start to get a little rough.

Dallas plays at New Orleans in Week 4, is at New England in Week 12, and is at Chicago in Week 14. The Eagles' road schedule the rest of the way is relatively easy as they only play one team away from the Linc that made the playoffs last season (Dallas in Week 7). The Birds do not play New Orleans, and they get the Patriots and Bears at home.

The back end of the Eagles' schedule is also loaded with home games and layup wins against the Giants. Five of the Eagles' last eight games will be at home, and they'll see Big Blue in Weeks 14 and 17.

So Dallas is going to get the early season headlines this year. But the Eagles should be the ones partying in December.

The play: $5 on Eagles to win NFC East, $5 on 49ers to win NFC West

GETTY IMAGES

TWEET OF THE DAY

Ben Fawkes
@BFawkesESPN

The Browns (-6.5) beat the Jets 23-3, which means bettor on DraftKings app in NJ who wagered $195,000 on Browns ML at -295 is also a winner. As is the bettor at CG Technology for $424 that wins $74,000.

Best Bets

NFL Week 3 betting: Raiders at Vikings

Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins is in need of a bounce-back performance on the heels of his 14-for-32, 230-yard effort against the Packers with two back-breaking INTs. Fortunately for him, the Oakland Raiders bring their sub-par stoppers into town this Sunday. Picking up where they left off last year, the Raiders are 26th in yards allowed per game through two weeks.

Patrick Mahomes accounted for over 400 yards passing in Oakland last Sunday. Cousins should be able to find wide-outs Stefon Diggs and Adam Thielen on a regular basis in this one.

Minnesota is just 15th in yards allowed per game this season, but they've played two strong offenses in Green Bay and Atlanta so far. The Raiders are fresh off a lousy 10-point performance against a soft Chiefs defense. The trends are not in Oakland's favor either, as the Vikings are 6-1 against the spread in their last seven games as home favorites and have covered in 15 of their last 19 games against AFC opponents. The Raiders have failed to cover in six of their last seven road games.

The play: Vikings -8.5

ROBERT CRISCOLA

GETTY IMAGES

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NFL WEEK 3

DETROIT LIONS AT PHILADELPHIA EAGLES -7

TENNESSEE TITANS -1.5 AT JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

LA RAMS -3 AT CLEVELAND BROWNS

PITTSBURGH STEELERS AT SAN FRAN 49ERS -6.5

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS AT SEATTLE SEAHAWKS -4

HOUSTON TEXANS AT LA CHARGERS -3.5

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Jalen Ramsey wants out of Jacksonville. The Eagles, with a clear need at CB, could be a prime destination. GETTY IMAGES

Is a Ramsey pursuit coming from Eagles?

The star cornerback has requested a trade away from the Jacksonville Jaguars.

JOVAN ALFORD
letters@metro.us

Throughout the first two weeks of the 2019 NFL regular season, the Philadelphia Eagles' secondary has not played up to par.

In the regular-season opener, rookie wide receiver Terry McLaurin burned veteran cornerback Rasul Douglas for a 70-yard touchdown reception.

Then on Sunday Night Football against the Atlanta Falcons, quarterback Matt Ryan made it an emphasis to pick on veteran cornerback Ronald Darby three plays straight, which included a Calvin Ridley 34-yard touchdown reception in the second quarter.

The Eagles' secondary has allowed three wide receivers to eclipse the 100-yard mark this season (McLaurin — 125, Julio Jones — 106, Ridley — 105) while allowing both Redskins quarterback Case Keenum and Ryan to torch them for over 300 passing yards.

With that being known, the Eagles might be able to fix this issue by possibly acquiring one of the best man-to-man cornerbacks in the league.

ESPN's Adam Schefter and Chris Mortenson reported on Monday that Jacksonville Jaguars All-Pro corner Jalen Ramsey wants out. His agent, David Mulugheta, told ESPN that he asked the team to trade Ramsey.

However, the Jaguars will not let Ramsey go without any type of proper compensation. According to ESPN, Jacksonville is asking for at least one first-round pick and possibly more in return for the two-time Pro Bowler.

This is not the first time that we've heard Ramsey's name mentioned in potential trade rumors. Just last season, Schefter reported that the Jags could trade Ramsey in the offseason.

But after that report came out, Jacksonville's front office quickly denounced it, saying there is no truth to the rumor and that they have zero intentions on moving the young cornerback.

Nevertheless, things have quickly eroded between the organization and Ramsey since last season.

For starters, the young top-tier cornerback is looking for a new contract. Then on Sunday, Ramsey and head coach Doug Marrone got into a heated confrontation, in which both participants had to be separated on the sidelines.

In this latest report, a league source said to ESPN that a trade could happen as early as this week due to what happened on Sunday between Marrone and Ramsey.

If this is the case, the Eagles need to be first-in-line to try to acquire the services of Ramsey.

We already know that the team was reportedly interested in Miami Dolphins' second-year defensive back Minkah Fitzpatrick, who was traded to the Pittsburgh Steelers for a first-round pick.

If they were serious in their pursuit for Fitzpatrick, then it should be a no-brainer to go after Ramsey. The 24-year-old cornerback would give the Eagles a lockdown corner that they desperately need now.

As things stand, here is the Eagles cornerback depth chart: Ronald Darby (starter at LCB), Avonte Maddox (starter at RCB), Sidney Jones, Rasul Douglas, and Craig James.

Not listed here is Jalen Mills, who is on the PUP (physically unable to perform) list and Cre'Von LeBlanc, who is on injured reserve with a foot injury.

Without those two players, the Eagles cannot afford another injury to their secondary. Hence, why Ramsey would be worth the price of admission.

Since entering the league in 2016 out of Florida State, the 24-year-old Ramsey has accumulated 202 combined tackles, 45 pass breakups, and nine interceptions in 50 games played.

Last season, Pro Football Focus ranked Ramsey as one of the best corners when it comes to red-zone defense. He was ranked first among cornerbacks in passer rating allowed (32.6) and seventh in catch rate allowed (25-percent).

Nevertheless, a trade for Ramsey would not only help this team in the short-term but also in the future.

The Eagles currently have $24 million in cap space this season per OverTheCap.com and could easily acquire Ramsey, who is in the final year of his rookie deal ($7.4 million).

However, his fifth-year option was exercised in the offseason, which is worth $13.7 million. But Ramsey will be looking for an extension as soon as this offseason.

Could Howie Roseman find a way to give Ramsey what he wants and make it work financially? Without a doubt. We have seen him do it before.

It should be interesting to see if the Eagles or any team make a move for the uber-talented cornerback in the coming days/weeks.

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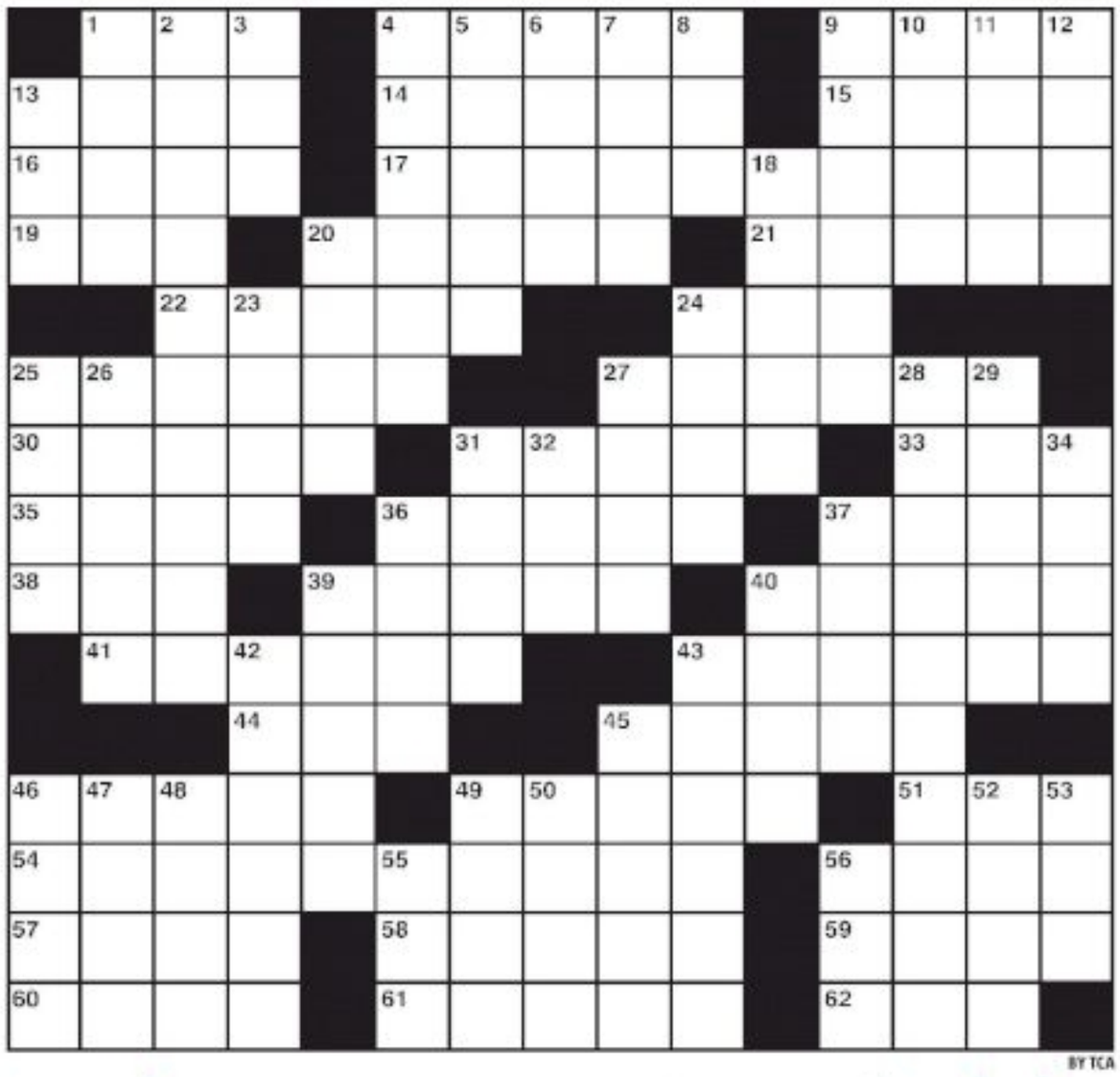
11 Clamor
4 Leftover fragment
9 As __ as molasses
13 Horse's hair
14 In a __; quickly
15 Hairy fruit
16 Pesky insect
17 Parties with wedding cakes
19 Incensed
20 The Mamas & the __
21 Hose down
22 Run and wed
24 Olive Oyl's hairdo
25 Pouty moods
27 Stick around
30 Grown-up
31 T-bone or New York
33 Cistern
35 Bona fide
36 Male animals
37 Actress Behrs
38 Tit for __
39 "Dancing with the __"
40 "Ave __"
41 Wiggle room
43 Deep narrow valley
44 Razz
45 Tendon
46 One-masted sailboat
49 Smiles
51 "I've __ it!"; cry of disgust
54 "Alice's Adventures in __"
56 Person listed in a will
57 Suffix for bear or wash
58 Brink
59 Military force
60 Mattel products
61 Look of contempt
62 "__ Miserables"

DOWN
1 Plato or Carvey
2 Deficient
3 Badminton court divider
4 Sandal features
5 Thin pancake
6 Costa __
7 King toppers
8 Get-up-and-go
9 Winter Olympics sport
10 Wild feline
11 __ up; admits guilt
12 Shrewd
13 Major movie studio
18 Main part of a tree
20 Verse writer
23 Pause in business activity
24 Unfair slant
25 Go separate ways
26 Perfect
27 Table supports
28 In all places
29 Numerical comparison
31 Remain
32 Street paver's goo
34 Better __; superior to
36 Take a __ at; try to do
37 Source of harm
39 Steal
40 "A __ home is his castle"
42 Wears away
43 Fragment of ash
45 Burn at the edges
46 Kill flies
47 Mexican wolf
48 "You __ Live Twice"; 007 film
49 Singer Campbell
50 Scarce
52 Goals
53 Help with the dishes
55 Winnebagos, for short
56 Actor Linden



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M	C	B	U	R	G	E	R	C	I
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S	N	N	H	K	U	E	C	O	D
A	C	X	C	S	E	S	D	K	N
E	I	I	T	S	B	S	R	O	A
R	P	A	E	W	R	Y	C	U	S
G	R	I	L	L	K	A	K	T	C
D	Z	I	H	M	B	U	P	N	G

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Burger
Cheese
Cookout
Greasy
Grill
Ketchup
Meat
Messy
Mustard
Paradise
Pickle
Picnic
Sandwich

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G	H	A	R	T
I	N	K	K	

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		6	1	8		2		
9	4					8		7
2		1			3			5
4			5			3		
8			3		2			6
		2			6			4
6			2			7		1
5		7					6	8
		4		6	8	5		

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A	S	P	S	■	C	O	L	L	E	C	T	I	N	G
N	A	R	■	M	I	N	E	■	■	R	I	N	S	E
■	■	E	D	I	F	Y	■	■	F	E	E	■	■	■
E	A	S	I	L	Y	■	■	B	E	A	S	T	S	■
C	L	E	R	K	■	G	L	E	A	M	■	R	E	C
H	I	N	T	■	F	A	I	N	T	■	M	I	N	I
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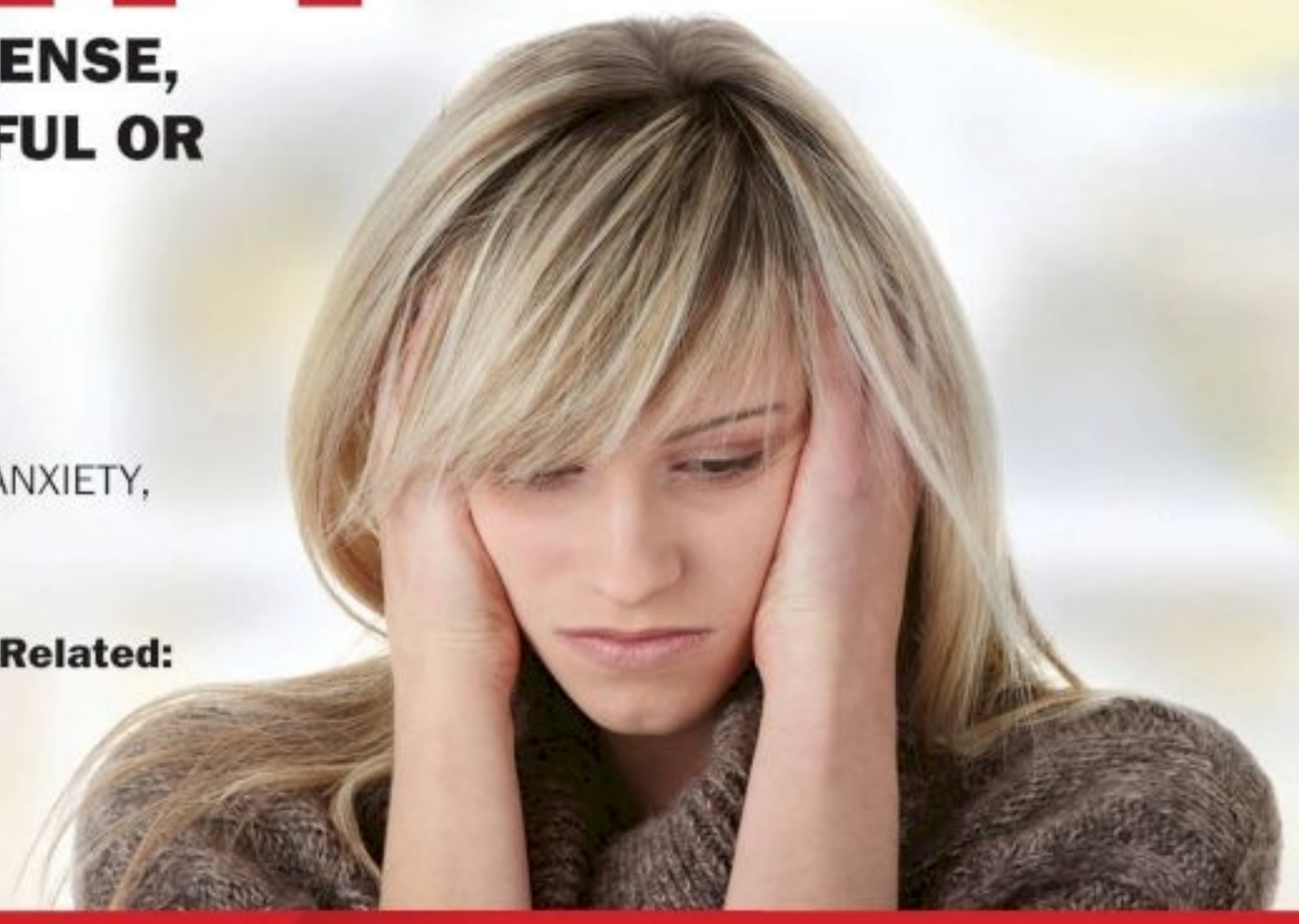

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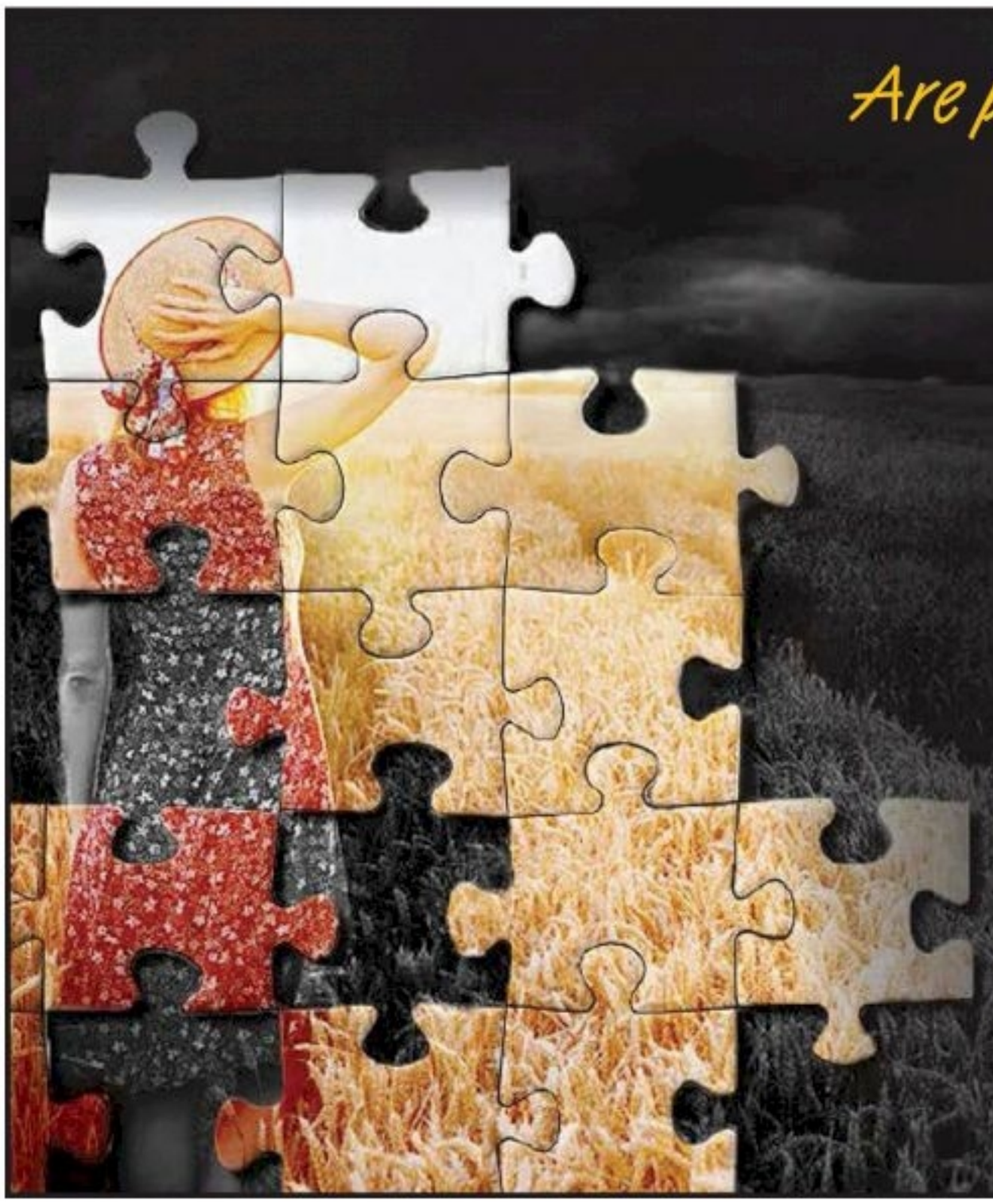

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